 **PAWPOURRI**
The newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington

Spring 2016
Volume 72 Number 1



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Transfer Program Saves Pets Around the World



Corky before surgery



Corky with his new owner

Most animals come to AWLA surrendered by their owners or found as strays, but a surprising number of animals come from other shelters and rescues. In 2015, more than 900 animals came to AWLA from 25 different facilities, both local and international. “Because AWLA has such a compassionate network of supporters, we can provide assistance to shelters and rescues that are overcrowded or unable to provide specialized care for their animals. Our goal is to prevent the suffering of animals not just in our county, but wherever we can help,” said Neil Trent, President and CEO of AWLA.

The Potomac Highlands Animal Rescue (PHAR) in West Virginia is one of AWLA’s longest term transfer partners. In the last year we received 458 dogs, cats, and rabbits from their organization. Because PHAR is run entirely by volunteers and located in a rural area, their animals have a much better chance at finding a new home through AWLA. Corky, a seven- year-old male Chihuahua, is one of the dogs we received from PHAR this year. When he arrived at AWLA in December 2015, he had a very large tumor on the side of his face that needed immediate attention. Dr. Christine Cottey, the Veterinary Director at AWLA, performed a successful surgery to remove the tumor, which was determined to be benign. Once he had recovered from surgery, Corky was made available for adoption and found his new family in February.

“Because AWLA has such a compassionate network of supporters, we can provide assistance to shelters and rescues that are overcrowded or unable to provide specialized care for their animals.”
-Neil Trent, President and CEO of AWLA.

Transfer Program Saves Pets Around the World Continued

In mid-January, AWLA received a group of dogs from slightly further afield - Puerto Rico, to be exact! Puerto Rico has a huge population of homeless animals, and Humane Society International (HSI) has been providing low-cost spay neuter assistance across the country. A few months ago, two adult female dogs (now named Amber and Lindsay) were brought to the clinic by a woman who had been feeding the street dogs near her home. The woman wanted HSI to spay them and then return them to where she found them, but it was instantly obvious to HSI staff that these dogs would not survive much longer on their own. They were both infected with sarcoptic (infectious) mange, which would prove fatal if left untreated. HSI decided to take in and treat the dogs, but before they could do that, they had one more task in front of them - to find the dogs' puppies! HSI staff could tell that both dogs had recently given birth, so they went back to where the dogs were picked up and found four tiny puppies, also infected with sarcoptic mange, in some bushes near an isolated road. All six dogs were taken to a local vet and treated for two months. The dogs also received their vaccinations and were spayed/neutered.

During their treatment, HSI reached out to AWLA, one of their Emergency Placement Partners, to ask if we could take on the mother dogs and their puppies. How could we say no? Amber, Lindsay, and their puppies arrived safe and sound at AWLA on January 16th, and are now in the process of being made



Above, left to right: Amber in Puerto Rico. Amber now



Above left to right: Lindsay in Puerto Rico. Lindsay now

available for adoption.

AWLA also partnered with HSI this year to bring in our second group of dogs from South Korea. This time around, HSI transferred 26 dogs from another dog meat farm in South Korea to Washington Animal Rescue League in DC. AWLA brought back four dogs from that group - Zora, Goron, and Kokori, three young Shiba Inu mixes, and Epona, a Tosa Inu mix. Zora, Goron, and Kokori were all quite social and friendly, so they were adopted with-

in a few weeks of their arrival, but Epona had a harder time adjusting to her new surroundings. She stayed curled up in the back of her cage, scared and confused. Slowly, the behavior staff began to gain her trust until they were able to leash her up and take her outside, where she was introduced to some of the other shelter dogs, and what a difference it made! Epona went from being timid and shy to a confident, bouncy dog, who had no problem making new canine friends. It was such a joy to



Puerto Rican puppies after mange treatment

see her true personality. Soon afterwards, the staff felt that Epona had made enough progress to be placed up for adoption, and within a week, Epona had found her new family.

“I’m very thankful that AWLA has been able to help out so many other shelters and rescues, said Feather Anderson, Adoptions and

Behavior Manager. “When you get the heart wrenching email from a transfer partner that has nowhere else to turn, it’s an amazing feeling to be able to say, ‘Yes, we can help.’ We owe a big THANK YOU to our adopters, volunteers, donors, and community for working together to make that possible.”



Epona in South Korea



Epono at AWLA

League Services

Emergencies in Arlington

We respond to animal emergencies 24 hours a day.

Adoptions

We always have animals who need good homes. If you live in Virginia, DC, or Maryland call us about adopting a companion.

Animal Control & Cruelty Investigation

Animal control officers pick up stray dogs and respond to citizen complaints about animals in Arlington.

Community Services

The League sponsors community services that help people and animals. Visit our Web site at www.awla.org or call (703) 931-9241 x 200 for information.

Lost & Found

Call (703) 931-9241 x 200 or visit our Web site at www.awla.org to report all lost and found animals. We can help find animals’ owners and return lost pets home again.

Wildlife Rescue & Problems

We’ll help get injured or abandoned wildlife to a licensed rehabilitator whenever possible. We’ll also help you discourage wildlife from moving into your home.

Rabies Control

See the calendar on the back cover for clinic dates and times.

Speakers & Humane Education

If your neighborhood is having animal problems or problems with irresponsible animal owners, you might want a League representative to address your civic association. We also present educational programs on many topics to schools and clubs. Visit our website at www.awla.org or call (703) 931-9241 x 213 for information.

Pawpourri, the newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, 2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr., Arlington, VA 22206, <http://www.awla.org>, is published bi-annually and mailed to League supporters. If you receive multiple copies, please notify us and pass them along to friends.

A COPY OF THE LATEST FINANCIAL REPORT AND REGISTRATION FILED BY THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING the State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Happy Tails

Samantha & Reese



*Above: Samantha Below: Reese
Photos by Jeremy Robbin*



Samantha, a nine-year-old American Foxhound mix, came to AWLA through our transfer program with the Louisiana SPCA in June 2014. She was adopted, but her adopters brought her back almost a year later saying she could not be housetrained. It turned out that Samantha had a severe urinary tract infection, which was the cause of her house-soiling. She was also missing most of her teeth, and the remainder were in bad shape, so our shelter veterinarian removed the rest of her teeth. Despite all of this, Samantha remained a sweet and happy dog, often referred to as “Mama Dog” because of her natural instinct to care for other dogs and children. She

spent many of her days playing with the children during AWLA Summer Camp, and was stellar in our canine play groups.

Potomac Highlands Animal Rescue (PHAR) in West Virginia rescued Reese, a one-year-old Australian Shepherd mix, when they saw that she was being given away, “free to a good home,” on Facebook. They brought her to AWLA a couple of months after Samantha arrived. Reese was born blind, and while she was very friendly and confident in familiar places, the shelter proved to be extremely overwhelming to her. The staff decided that Reese might adapt better to her new surroundings if she had a friend and a role model, and so Reese and Samantha’s friendship began!

When Samantha and Reese were introduced to each other, it was clear that they were a great fit. Reese relied on Samantha to show her the ropes, following her around the yard and relying on her for support. Samantha lived up to her “Mama Dog” reputation and was a strong leader for Reese. They shared a kennel, and we began to see Reese’s confidence improve daily.

A few weeks later, a family saw Reese on our website and decided to meet her. They came to visit, and as soon as they saw Reese and Samantha together, they knew they had to adopt both dogs.

Samantha and Reese are living happily in their new home. Their adoptive mom, Susan, reports that Samantha is “truly a couch potato” and “loves to announce to all the dogs in the neighborhood with her ‘bay’ when she goes out for walks.” Reese adjusted to her new home very quickly with Samantha’s support, and now loves to “play all day” and “carry around her ball, bouncing it to herself” so she can play fetch! The family is absolutely in love with their girls and are so grateful for the happiness Samantha and Reese have brought into their home.

Lido & Giblet

Lido and Giblet, two young dumbo rats, were brought to the shelter when their owners developed allergies. At first, they were very shy and did not want to be handled, but the staff worked hard to gain their trust and build their confidence. Their adoptive mom-to-be, Charla, saw them online and decided Lido and Giblet would be a fantastic addition to their family. Rats are very social creatures and love having lots of friends to play with, both human and rodent, so this was a great fit for everyone.

As soon as Lido and Giblet came home, Charla made sure to have them neutered so that they could join their

Happy Tails

other rats, Amelie, Celestine, and Oliver, as soon as possible! Now they are all living, playing, and cuddling together as one big, happy family. Lido is still a little shy, but loves watching TV with his adoptive mom. Giblett is very curious and loves to play: his favorite activity is “wrestling” with his mom when she tickles the fur behind his ears!

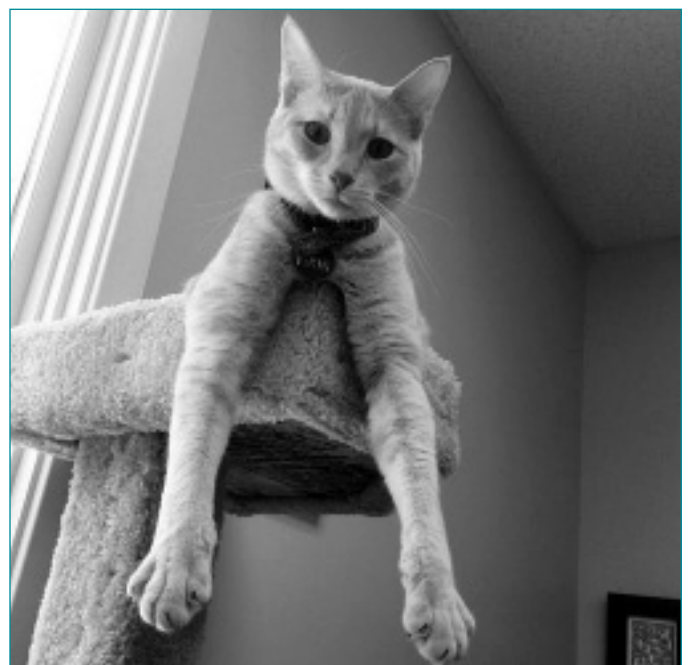
Scotty

Scotty (also affectionately known as “Scotty Don’t”) is one of the more memorable cats that have come through our doors. Scotty first arrived as a stray and was adopted, but was returned when he didn’t get along with the other cat in his home. On his return, the words, “Scotty, don’t!” frequently followed the handsome buff tabby around the administrative office where he lived. He preferred to traverse the walls of office cubicles in his travels, liked to steal bubble wrap from the supply cupboard, and he once hopped inside the staff refrigerator to help himself to an afternoon snack. As much as he was a troublemaker, however, he was also incredibly affectionate and liked to sit on the staff’s shoulders while they worked. During his stay, Laura Sharkey, the owner of Woofs! Dog Training Center in Arlington, expressed interest in adopting a cat that would benefit from training and extra mental enrichment. Teresa Villatoro, our Adoptions & Cat Behavior Counselor, immediately knew that Scotty would be a great fit for Laura, and she was right. Scotty went home with Laura a few days later, and now lives happily with three dogs and a cockatoo.



Above: Lido and Gilbert.

Bottom left: Scotty up to no good. Bottom right: Scotty at rest.



Animal Control Diary



Our Animal Control department responds to all calls of animals in distress, and one of the most memorable recent cases is Schroeder, a young Shih Tzu mix. The person who called us had found the little dog in the stairwell of a parking garage in Arlington. When our officer arrived, she found the dog in extremely poor shape:

cold, thin, and severely matted. Our officer brought little Schroeder to Shirlington Animal Hospital right away; he needed fluids and antibiotics, and his fur was so terribly matted and dirty that he had to be sedated to be shaved. Once the veterinary team had finished, they had a pile of matted fur as large as Schroeder himself.

Animal control documented the dog's condition to prepare a cruelty and neglect case against his owner, however, we never received any information that would have led to a prosecution in Schroeder's case. He did recover fully and found a new, loving family in October!



Top left: Schroeder now. Top: Schroeder as we found him. Below: Schroeder getting a bath.



Pops for Pets



The Arlington Philharmonic will host the third annual Pops for Pets concert at Lubber Run Park on Sunday, June 26 to celebrate the mission of AWLA. Guests are invited to bring their picnic baskets, family, friends, and dogs to enjoy the beautiful music.

Supporters of the Philharmonic and AWLA are joining together to promote this community concert, which is fast becoming a popular annual event celebrating the work of both the Arlington Philharmonic and AWLA.

“The Philharmonic’s goal is to make classical music accessible to every Arlington resident, to promote the value of classical music in our lives and ensure that young people have access to it,” said John Ratigan, president of the Arlington Philharmonic. “Over 3,000 companion animals benefit from AWLA each year with 97% of sheltered animals placed for adoption, reunited with their owners, or transferred to rescue partners,” said Neil Trent, president and CEO of AWLA. “Celebrating with the Arlington Philharmonic is a marvelous opportunity to bring our community together to revel in the special joy that only music and the companionship of a pet can bring.”

AWLA Calendar Contest



We are excited to announce the return of the AWLA Calendar Contest! Don't miss this opportunity to submit your pets' glamor shot for this bright, shiny, new 2017 calendar.

Beginning on May 12th, submit a photo of your pet to our Calendar Contest page for a chance to win the grand prize: first place in each category (dog, cat, and small companion animal) will win a portrait session with a professional photographer and have their pets used as the inspiration for a larger-than-life mural on the side of our shelter! Even better, the funds you raise will help AWLA continue to provide care and services for animals in need.

The entry fee per photo is \$25. If you have more than one furry friend feel free to enter them all. Every entrant will be included in the calendar and will receive a complimentary calendar. Encourage your friends to vote! Each vote is \$1 with a minimum of five votes per person. Stay tuned for more details on other great prizes for our winners.

The calendar contest kicks off on May 12th and will end on June 9th at noon, when we'll announce our grand prize winners. So mark your calendars, and start snapping photos of your "paw-some" pets! Visit www.awla.org for more details and to enter your pet.

Save the Date

April - Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month

- 1st Healthy Pet Fund Run/Walk @ New District Brewery 6pm
- 10-16 National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week
- 11 Baby Ready Pets 6:30pm-8:30pm

May

- 1-7 Be Kind to Animals Week
- 7 AWLA Walk for the Animals
- 12 AWLA Calendar Contest Begins!
- 22-28 National Dog Bite Prevention Week
- 26 Low Cost Rabies & Microchip Clinic 6:30pm-8:30pm

June - Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

- 9 AWLA Calendar Contest Ends
- 13 Baby Ready Pets 6:30pm-8:30pm
- 23 Low Cost Rabies & Microchip Clinic 6:30pm-8:30pm
- 26 Pops for Pets

July

Summer Camps for ages 6-13

August

- 1-5 Summer Camp for ages 10-13
- 15 Baby Ready Pets 6:30-8:30pm

2016 Walk for the Animals



Saturday, May 7
Bluemont Park

Register Online
awla.org

On Saturday, May 7th, lace up your walking shoes, leash up your pup, and join us for Animal Welfare League of Arlington's Walk for the Animals at Bluemont Park! Hundreds of animal lovers will be joining together to raise money for homeless pets by taking part in a one or three mile walk through the park. You could be one of them!

Arlington County's largest pet-centric event brings two-legged and four-legged residents together for a day of celebration and fun to benefit shelter animals, services, and programs supported by AWLA, the county's only animal shelter. AWLA's Walk for the Animals has provided for tens of thousands of animals in our care, giving them medical care, food, shelter, and best of all, a

Walk for the Animals may have gotten bigger and better, but the goal has stayed the same: to raise money for animals in need.

Walkers in 2015 Photo: Dirty Paw Photography



2016 Walk for the Animals

chance for a new life through adoption.

Over the years, Walk for the Animals may have gotten bigger and better, but the goal has stayed the same: to raise money for animals in need. We need you to come out, have fun, and help us raise funds to improve the lives of animals in Arlington County and beyond. Prizes will be awarded to the top fundraisers, but best of all, you'll be rewarded with the satisfaction of knowing that every step you took and every dollar you raised helped to save the life of an animal in our shelter.

Help us help them - visit www.awla.org to register for AWLA's Walk for the Animals today!



Walk for the Animals Sponsors



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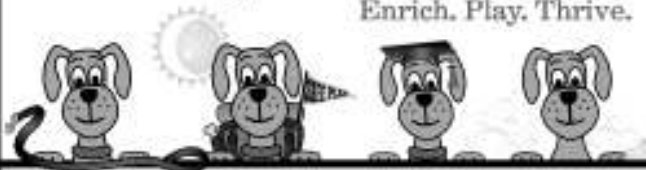
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generous sponsors and
get more information at
www.awla.org.*

Look for more info
online at www.awla.org



League Hours

Visiting:

Noon – 7:00 p.m. Monday

Closed Tuesday

Noon – 7:00 p.m. Wed. - Fri.

Noon – 4:00 p.m. Sat. - Sun.

Receiving Stray Animals:

8:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. daily

Emergencies: 24 hours a day

Pawpourri

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Rabies & Microchip Clinics

Please bring dogs on leashes and cats in carriers.

Rabies Shot: \$10 • Microchip: \$30

May 26 • June 23 •

Aug 25 • Sep 22 • Oct 27 • Dec 1 (1st Thursday)

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Please bring proof of a prior rabies shot
(a rabies certificate, not a tag) to get a three-year rabies shot.
Without it, your pet will receive a one-year shot.